FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 MAY 1987

Israel

The classified section of the Rotenstreich-Tzur committee report contains findings that are "no less serious" than those of MK Abba Eban's committee, *Ma'ariv* reported 28 May, adding that this secret report criticizes Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Shamir, and Yitzhaq Rabin for failing to check the facts of the Pollard affair and thereby providing the Americans with erroneous information. In a related development, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the secret part of the Rotenstreich-Tzur report will not be handed over to the United States. The radio also noted Prime Minister Shamir's view that the submission of the two committee reports on the Pollard affair "closes the case." Foreign Minister Peres again defended his own conduct over the affair in a Jerusalem television interview, denying Likud MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar's claim that he knowingly lied to the Eban committee. Stressing Ben-Elisar's "entire lack of seriousness and lack of honesty," Peres accused him of telling "baseless stories" about "things that do not involve me."

Iran

Complaint to Turkey — A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed "regrets" over a magazine article about Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's "alleged sex life" during exile in Turkey in 1957-60, ANATOLIA announced. The spokesman made the remarks 26 May after the Iranian ambassador lodged a complaint about the article. According to an Iranian Embassy statement cited by IRNA, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal received the Iranian ambassador the next day and refuted a claim by the article's author that the Turkish national security organization was his source. Ozal told the diplomat this claim is "totally unfounded" and said the article's publisher would be prosecuted.

USSR Denies Arms Delivery — TASS termed an "ill-intentioned fabrication" a story in *The New York Times* that the Soviet Union "quietly" delivered advanced weapons to Iran last December. The agency said such "scoops" were intended to distract attention from the scandal over "unlawful" shipments of U.S. arms to Iran.

Naval Readiness — The Revolution Guards naval commander announced his forces' "full readiness" in "all dimensions," according to IRNA. The commander was meeting with Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Gulf

A Liberian-registered tanker was hit near Kuwaiti shores 26 May, KUNA reported, citing "authorized sources." The extent of damage and the source of the attack were unknown.

Saudi Arabia

In an 'Id al-Fitr speech carried by SPA, Crown Prince 'Abdallah warned that the Iran-Iraq war could widen into an international "explosion," and he appealed to "the brothers in Tehran" to take heed of the "ominous alarms on the horizon." On domestic affairs, he urged citizens to shift their investments from foreign holdings into the Saudi economy, asserting that now is the time for "monies imprisoned in boxes and estranged from the homeland" to be withdrawn from "exile" for investment in the construction of a "strong state and happy society."

Ramadan Amnesties

Committees acting on Saudi King Fahd's instructions released over 5,000 Saudi and foreign prisoners during the month of Ramadan, the Saudi Interior Ministry announced in a statement carried by SPA. The Saudi amnesty covers prisoners convicted of "simple and light" offenses and those who have only a short period left to serve in jail.

In other amnesties at the conclusion of Ramadan, *Bakhtar* announced the release of 181 prisoners from Afghanistan's Pol-e Charkhi prison, while *The Jerusalem Post* noted that the South Lebanese Army released 46 Shi'ite prisoners from Al-Khiyam jail in southern Lebanon. The Israeli authorities released 24 inmates of Tulkarm prison, Jerusalem radio revealed.

Syria-USSR

An "informed source" in Damascus cited by Radio Monte Carlo stated that President Hafiz al-Asad's 26 May talks with a Soviet envoy focused on the Palestinian problem and PLO-Syrian relations. A SANA report on the meeting noted that the Soviet visitor gave Al-Asad a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on bilateral and international issues.

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Najibullah Receives Polish Official; Protocol Signed

LD272207 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met with Manfred Gorywoda, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, at the party Central Committee's headquarters this afternoon.

At the meeting which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the two sides spoke about economic and commercial issues between the DRA and the People's Republic of Poland.

Mohammad Aziz, vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers and head of the DRA State Planning Committee, and Edward Poradko, ambassador extraordinary of the People's Republic of Poland in Kabul, were also present at this meeting.

According to another report, a protocol on economic and technical cooperation between the DRA State Planning Committee and the Planning Commission of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Poland was concluded and its documents were exchanged in Kabul today. The protocol was signed by Mohammad Aziz, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and head of the DRA State Planning Committee, and Gorywoda, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee.

Also, a protocol on cooperation between the DRA Ministry of Commerce and the Polish Ministry of Domestic Trade and Services was concluded today in the headquarters of the State Planning Committee. The protocol was signed by the deputy minister for foreign trade in the DRA Ministry of Commerce, and by Andrzej Malinowski, Poland's deputy minister of domestic trade and services.

The ministers of electrical energy, mines and industries, commerce, and light industries and foodstuffs were present during the signing of the protocol.

'Abdol Wakil, Shevardnadze Meet 26 May

LD272054 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] While on his way home from friendly and official visits to the CSSR, the People's Republic of Poland, and the People's Republic of Bulgaria Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of foreign affairs, met with Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, yesterday morning.

During the meeting Comrade 'Abdol Wakil informed Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze about the progress of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan. Comrade 'Abdol Wakil also provided Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze with information about the consolidation and further expansion of relations between the DRA and other countries as well as the increasing international support in light of the national reconciliation policy now taking place in the country and efforts for the political solution of events around Afghanistan.

Comrade Shevardnadze emphasized that the Soviet Union is prepared to continue giving every assistance and necessary support to the DRA in its efforts to stop bloodshed and for its socioeconomic development.

Revolutionary Council Grants Amnesty to 181 Prisoners

LD280600 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 27, BAKHTAR — Based on the decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, one hundred eighty one prisoners were released from Pol-e Charkhi central prison today on the advent of the conclusion of fasting month festival.

The released prisoners expressed their gratitude to the revolutionary sovereignty for its humane action and pledged that they will not withhold any cooperation in defence of the objectives of the April Revolution and for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation to compensate their past activities.

'Muslim Revolutionaries' Down Fighter, Helicopters

LD281021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] During an intensive operation, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries downed one fighter plane and four military helicopters of the Kabul regime and killed a group of the joint forces.

According to a report by the *Afghan News Agency*, during another operation in the Khash region of Nimroz Province, the Muslim revolutionaries attacked a headquarters of the joint forces and killed dozens of these troops.

Also during this operation, the Muslim revolutionaries captured some arms and ammunition of the joint forces.

The latest reports on operations of the Muslim revolutionaries against the government forces in various regions of Afghanistan indicate that during some intense clashes between the revolutionaries in the Chaghcharan region of the Ghowr Province, 100 joint troops were killed.

After these clashes, the fighter aircraft of the occupying forces bombed positions of the revolutionaries in this region, martyring several Muslim revolutionaries and civilians living in the area.

Foreign Minister Returns From Angola, Italy

BK270739 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has said the image of Bangladesh has gone high in the comity of nations for its communal peace and harmony. He was talking to newsmen on his return to Dhaka yesterday from a 10-day trip that took him to Luanda and Rome. He met the pope at the Vatican. He said the pope paid rich tribute to Bangladesh for the remarkable communal harmony prevailing in the country. Mr Chowdhury said the pope recalled his visit to Bangladesh a few months ago. He appreciated Bangladesh's persistent effort in looking after the religious and other interests of the minority communities, including the Christians. The pope said Bangladesh is well-known in the world for its communal and ethnic harmony. The foreign minister said he also praised the minorities for their devotion to contribute to the national development of their country.

In Rome Mr Chowdhury held talks with his Italian counterpart. One of the major outcome of the talks was the writing off off the debt by Italy of its projects in Bangladesh [words indistinct] prior to 1971 and an agreement to this effect is expected to be signed in Dhaka soon.

Leaders, Groups Express Concern Over Indian Violence

BK270233 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] More leaders and organizations have expressed their concern over the continued communal violence in some parts of India.

In a statement in Dhaka yesterday, former president and chairman of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, said the news of communal clashes at Meerut and some parts of Delhi in India is a matter of grave concern and distress to all of us.

He said peace-loving people of the world pray for the restoration of law and order. He fervently hoped that the Government of India would be able to bring the situation quickly under control.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Interreligious Council for Peace and Justice, Dr A.B.M. Shamsud Daula, appealed to India to immediately stop the riots.

He called for extending all possible help toward complete rehabilitation of all the riot-affected people in India.

Gandhi Message to Jayewardene Urges Restraint

BK271621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] According to a message just received, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has sent a message to President Jayewardene urging the greatest restraint in Jaffna. The message was handed over to Mr Jayewardene by the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit.

Further Details on Message

BK280325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, met the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, yesterday in Colombo and handed over a message from the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The message urged Colombo to observe restraint in the developments in Jaffna.

Mr Dixit is also understood to have stated that the tragic consequences of these developments will entirely be the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government.

As already reported, fierce battles continued between the Sri Lankan security forces and the militants for control of the northern Jaffna peninsula. The government offensive was launched on Tuesday [26 May] with a 48-hour curfew imposed on the peninsula. Reports said at least 150 people were feared killed in the fighting. The curfew in the northern Jaffna peninsula has been extended by another day. The 48-hour curfew imposed earlier expired at 0600 this morning.

TULF Urge Gandhi Intervention

BK271604 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 37 May 87

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] has appealed to India and other nations to immediately intervene and stop the killings of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in Jaffna.

In a statement, the TULF secretary general, Mr Amrithalingam, said the long-planned offensive launched by Colombo will close the doors for all times to any negotiated settlement of the ethic issue. Mr Amrithalingam described the attack as that terrorism.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, has also urged the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi to prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to stop its military action against the Tamil minority in Jaffna.

In a telex message, Mr Ramachandran pointed out that the Tamils were already subjected to extreme sufferings by the economic and communications blockade. Intensifying the military action against them constitutes a serious violation of the fundamental rights, he said.

Tiwari Condemns Sri Lankan Assault on Jaffna

BK271405 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, today strongly condemned the massive assault launched by the Sri Lankan security forces against the entire civilian population of Jaffna. He said: This is in spite of the earlier official announcement that Sri Lanka will continue to actively pursue the path of negotiation. It also signifies the increasing influence of external elements inimical to security, stability, and peace in our region. In a statement, Mr Tiwari said the consequences of this onslaught on the long-suffering Tamil population of Jaffna will be tragic.

Government Terminates Agreement With Fairfax Group

BK271619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] The government today terminated with immediate effect the agreement purported to have been entered into with the Fairfax group of the United States or any of its representatives or employees. An official release in New Delhi today said that the government has also terminated all such arrangements entered into or purported to have been entered into with Dr (Harris) and Mr (Gordon Andrew MacKay), residents of Annandale in the United States by the Directorate of Enforcement. The press release adds that records reveal that so far no information has been furnished by these persons or by the Fairfax group except passing on certain documents received by them from Dupont, an American firm.

The Directorate of Enforcement has issued an authorization to (Dr Harris) and (Mr MacKay), to collect information in the matter of investigations regarding certain violations of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Meerut, Delhi Situation Improve; Curfew Relaxed

BK280317 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] In Meerut, the curfew has been relaxed for 4 hours from 0700 this morning in all the curfew-bound areas of the city. The situation is gradually returning to normal. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere since Monday [25 May] evening. A police spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent this morning that depending on the situation, the curfew relaxation is likely to be extended by an hour. He said the Security Forces have been asked to keep a close and strict vigil during the relaxation.

In Delhi, with substantial improvement in the situation in the Walled City areas, the curfew has been relaxed for 4 hours from 0500 this morning. Our correspondent reports that police and paramilitary forces are keeping strict vigil. The Army continues to stand by.

Yaqub Khan on French Proposal on Nuclear Plant

BK280446 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has described his recent visit to the United States as fruitful and said the attitude of U.S. leaders to our urgent requirement for an effective airborne early warning system is sympathetic.

Talking to newsmen on his return to Karachi last night, he said that their general attitude in this regard is positive and favorable. However, several aspects need to be examined before an agreement is finalized. It will also require congressional approval. The agreement will not affect Pakistan's nonaligned status, he added.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the U.S. leaders regard as important Pakistan's anxiety and concern over the recent escalation in violations of our airspace and territorial frontiers by Afghanistan, as well as its air attacks. The foreign minister said he had extensive and fruitful meetings and exchanges with President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz, Defense Secretary Weinberger, and a number of senators and congressmen, as well as senior administration officials. President Reagan expressed happiness over the close friendship and multidimensional cooperation between Pakistan and the United States and stated he is confident these mutually beneficial ties will serve their national interests and contribute to stability and peace in the region as well.

On his meetings with other U.S. leaders, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said these provided an opportunity to restate Pakistan's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and its policy to promote it on a regional basis.

Views were also exchanged during these meetings on matters of direct concern to Pakistan and the Untied States, developments in our region, Afghanistan, and $4.2 billion aid package for Pakistan which is under consideration in the Congress and Senate, the foreign minister said.

On his return trip, the foreign minister also met with his French counterpart, Jean Raimond, in Paris and held talks with him on international issues and matters of mutual interest.

In reply to a question, he said that Pakistan is very carefully considering the proposals made by France on the issue of a nuclear reprocessing plant. He said that he is hopeful of an early and mutually satisfying settlement on the issue. This will provide a fresh impetus to effective future cooperation in economic and technological fields, including nuclear power generation.

Protest Lodged With India Over Statements on Meerut

BK271532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] The Pakistan Embassy has protested to the Indian Government against statements by some local authorities in Meerut in which they tried to involve Pakistan in recent communal riots in Meerut.

The Pakistan Embassy described these statements as baseless and misleading and said this false propaganda should stop as it endeavors to involve Pakistan in India's internal affairs. The embassy has also asked the Indian Government to provide complete information about Pakistanis who had gone to see their relatives in Meerut to celebrate 'Id al-Fitr and may have been killed, injured, missing, or arrested.

Karachi Notes Explosion at Indian Consulate in Karachi

BK271524 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] According to a press note issued by the district magistrate of South Karachi [words indistinct] explosive was thrown at the waiting area of the visa section of the Indian Consulate at about 0400 this morning slightly damaging the waiting area's roof made of four asbestos sheets. No other loss to life or property is reported. Police are investigating this matter.

SRI LANKA

Further Reportage on Assault on Tamil Strongholds

President on Fighting 'Terrorism'

BK271552 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1525 GMT 27 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 27 (LANKA PUWATH) — The government has decided to continue its efforts to combat terrorism to a conclusion, said Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene after having declared open the new 32-storeyed Bank of Ceylon headquarters in Colombo Fort this evening. He said that there was no other option to wipe out this menace of terrorism.

President Jayewardene further said that in a democratic country problems should be solved in a democratic manner. For this he said negotiation was the only system. But the terrorists do not believe in negotiations. He said civilised people solved their problems through discussion and not by resorting to violence.

The president said that Prabhakaran was a great and intimate friend of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran. Prabhakaran is in command of Tamil Nadu chief minister's private army, he added.

"In a situation like this will you carry a white flag and go to them or will you fight them", the president asked the audience which included heads of diplomatic missions. "We have decided to fight them and that will go on until either they or we win". We need the full support of the members of this bank for this venture, the president concluded.

Separatists: Never Surrender

BK270827 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 27 (AFP) -- Tamil separatist groups, saying they were under heavy attack from government forces on Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula, pledged Wednesday to continue their fight and "never surrender." In a telephone interview from Madras, southern India, Velupillai Balkumar, leader of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), said: "We may have to retreat one step if there is an emergency. We will move to other areas. But our fight will go on. We shall never surrender."

Informed sources in Colombo said more than 100 separatists and 10 soldiers were killed and another 59 soldiers were wounded as government troops launched a major air and ground offensive Tuesday against selected Tamil targets on the peninsula. The offensive was continuing Wednesday, the sources said.

"Air Force planes bombed the entire peninsula throughout last night and casualties are believed to be heavy," Mr. Balakumar told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. He said Sri Lankan ground forces were trying to surround and cut off the Vadamarachchi area near Point Pedro, on the northern coast. "But our fighters are giving them a good fight," Mr. Balakumar said from EROS headquarters in Madras.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the island's dominant militant group and an EROS ally, said the military offensive, involving thousands of troops, "was the final all-out offensive" to regain Jaffna, the Tamil's northern stronghold. "Heavy fighting is going on everywhere and we have lost eight fighters," LTTE's Nateshan, a senior commander, told AFP also from Madras. The EROS and LTTE control Jaffna and are two of the five major groups fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka. Mr. Nateshan said hundreds of soldiers had moved out of nine army camps in the peninsula, backed by aerial support, and had opened artillery fire at several residential areas and guerrilla bases.

Sri Lanka ordered a 48-hour curfew in the peninsula early Tuesday to facilitate the military operation. The curfew is due to be lifted at dawn Thursday but could be extended if necessary, reliable sources in Colombo said.

Mr. Nateshan said army helicopters had dropped several thousand leaflets on Jaffna Wednesday, announcing the curfew and asking people to take shelter in schools and colleges. "But within two hours, the air force launched a massive attack, resulting in at least 100 civilian casualties," he said.

The LTTE said the heaviest aerial bombing had been reported in Varani, Kodigamam, Manchalai, Vadamarachchi, Katkovalam, Velvettithurai, Point Pedro, Kattuvan, Jaffna town and its suburbs. The two groups said three bombers, two Avro planes, two sea planes and eight helicopters were strafing the peninsula. There was "constant shelling from the Jaffna fort and all other military camps," Mr. Balakumar added.

All Tamil separatist groups maintain offices in Madras, capital of India's Tamil Nadu state, which is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea called Palk Strait.

TULF Allegations Rejected

BK280631 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0620 GMT 28 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Government has refuted a TULF condemnation of the military action in the north and rejected outright the TULF allegation that Security Forces has launched indiscriminate attacks on civilians, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced this morning.

The government had last night sent a message to the TULF inviting its leadership to visit the northern peninsula to see for themselves the conditions there. It told the TULF that it could satisfy itself fully about the real situation in the peninsula.

The TULF yesterday strongly condemned the government's Security Forces action in the north and alleged that security personnel were launching indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

Government Troops Enter Jaffna

BK280722 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 28 May 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 28 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops have entered the Tamil separatist stronghold of Jaffna Town for the first time in many months, a senior minister said Thursday.

Meanwhile President Junius Jayewardene has made strong remarks about India following New Delhi's expressions of concern about the current military push in the Jaffna area, reliable sources said. The Indian high commissioner had Wednesday handed Mr Jayewardene a message from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi urging a halt to military operations that could impede New Delhi's peace efforts, the sources said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE government troops had passed through Beach Road, Bangkshall Road and two lanes in Jaffna Town that until then had been rebel-held territory. Observers said the foray was significant because the rebels have always claimed that troops are confined to barracks and cannot venture out. Some analysts believe there will now be an attempt by government forces to encircle the town, as sources said more troops were landed Wednesday to the north and are now believed to be heading south.

Mr Athulathmudali said more than 100 separatists have been killed in the major military strike that began Tuesday under cover of a 48-hour curfew. The curfew has since been extended and is now due to end at dawn Friday. The security minister said 81 of the dead had been identified as members of the biggest Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and an ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS). He said 24 soldiers have been killed in clashes so far, six of them on Wednesday. About 80 troops have been wounded, most of them slightly.

The minister said troops overran an LTTE stronghold known as "Canada Bunker" in Uduppiddy that the organisation had considered impregnable.

Mr Athulathmudali discounted some Indian estimates that 248 civilians had died during the military offensive. He said this was highly exaggerated and he wondered how Indian authorities were able to make a body count.

Military analysts said government forces apparently intend striking at different places simultaneously, keeping the rebels unsettled, not knowing where the main thrust is coming from and where to send reinforcements. They said it is expected that most rebel units will be sent to protect LTTE leaders who are believed to be in Point Pedro on the northeastern tip of the peninsula.

The analysts said that of the two commando columns first landed in the peninsula Tuesday by helicopter, one was heading towards Point Pedro. "It is already about two-thirds of the way and the objective is obviously to encircle the Vadamarachchi sector," one analyst said. Point Pedro and Velvettithurai, which is nearby, are LTTE strongholds and the home of LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. "The idea seems to be to catch the LTTE leadership and especially Prabhakaran," an analyst said.

Naval patrols in the northern waters off Point Pedro have been strengthened to cut off any attempts by the LTTE leadership to escape by boat to Tamil Nadu, in southern India, where they were based until late last year, sources said.

Meanwhile, President Junius Jayewardene chided India Wednesday for asking Colombo not to exercise the "military option" in its conflict with the Tamil separatists, reliable sources said Thursday.

Mr Jayewardene told High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit that New Delhi's concern about military action in the northern Jaffna peninsula should be addressed instead to the armed separatist groups as they were practicing violence, the sources said. He also told the Indian envoy that what Colombo was doing is the same as what Indian government is doing in the Punjab to crush "terrorism", informed sources said. [passage omitted]

Mr Jayewardene also said that the Prabhakaran-led LTTE was the private army of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, whose administration recently gave 3.2 million dollars worth of "aid" to Tamil relief organisations that many observers and analysts said was passed straight on to the LTTE and EROS.

Observers said Mr Jayewardene's remarks Wednesday were an indication that he had lost patience with the separatist groups, who have refused to negotiate, and with India, which is urging peace talks but is unable to persuade the Tamils to talk.

LTTE Leader Prabhakaran Encircled

BK281114 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] According to the Media Center in Colombo, the Security Forces have encircled several leaders of the Tiger movement, including LTTE leader, Prabhakaran. Measures have been taken to prevent them now cornered at Vadamarachchi in Jaffna from escaping to India. The Navy has kept up operations in the surveillance zone.

The Media Center said that the armed forces are making an all-out effort to capture Prabhakaran and other terrorist leaders. The Media Center added that 37 Indian-trained hardcore Tiger leaders have been killed by the forces.

LANKA PUWATH Update on Fighting

BK281145 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0955 GMT 28 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — The curfew due to lapse today (28.5.87) has been extended for a further period of 24 hours in the entirety of Jaffna Peninsula, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH.

The commandos (?who) landed on Sea Beach Road and outside of Jaffna Town yesterday are moving outwards and are still

engaged in close obstacles put by the LTTE to prevent civilians from leaving the city of Jaffna if they so wished.

The commandos killed killed 10 terrorists yesterday and thereafter faced little resistance. At the moment they are engaged in defusing land mines, booby traps and destroying bunkers in the vicinity of the municipal limits of Jaffna. Terrorists have obtained large [words indistinct] guns apparently recently which are fitted at the [passage indistinct] and on roof tops close to the Kovil. These can be used against aircraft. The terrorists are firing at helicopters and aircraft from these temples. Other prominent places of worship have also been used for the siting of such guns.

Orders have therefore gone out to the Air Force to avoid flying near such religious places since retaliation in the face of terrorist attacks would destroy these temples, some of which are used by citizens as shelter in the event of attacks.

Abandoned houses or houses forcibly taken over by the LTTE have been turned into booby traps so as to impede the operations of security forces and also for propaganda purposes.

Operations launched on the 17th at Kankesanturai, Thondamanaru, Vasavilan, Velvettithurai and Kattuwan are in progress with the security forces linking up and moving forwards whilst consolidating the areas under their dominance.

The four pronged operation in the heart of LTTE-dominated territory of Vandamarachchi area is continuing steadily and according to plan. Over 80 armed terrorists have been killed in the operation and many were wounded. 37 of them have been identified as front rankers trained abroad. A large number of carefully built bunkers, named Canada bunkers, have been destroyed. All civilians are cooperating with the secuirty forces and therefore the terrorists are being boxed in from four sides.

From all these operations in the Jaffna areas starting from 26.5.87, twenty three (23) security force personnel have lost their lives. Many were wounded but are out of danger. Most casualties were the result of booby traps, land mine explosions and also in attempting to destroy extensive mine fields in the Thondamanaru, Velvettithurai, Udipiddy and Vadamarachchi areas. At Aiyakachchi the security forces are conducting further operations having overcome the earlier resistance.

A lorry carrying 54 large cans of diesel to Jaffna was detained by the security forces yesterday at Mankulam in the Killinochchi District, northern Sri Lanka.

Anton, Thorai, Nadesan and another belonging to the PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] gang of terrorists were killed by the LTTE for disobeying their orders at Vavuniya yesterday. This was revealed in a note pinned on to their bodies. Five terrorists belonging to the LTTE surrendered to the security forces yesterday at Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka with their ammo and cyanide capsules.

On the same day at Kituluttuwa in Trincomalee, separatist terrorists blasted an electricity pylon carrying 132,000 volts of electricity to Trincomalee. The Ceylon Electricity Board is rushing through with emergency repairs to ensure continuous supply. The security forces discovered two Claymore mines and a grenade necklace with seven grenades attached to it on the railway track between Murunkan and Pa[illegible]ankulam in the Mannar District, northwestern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Meanwhile, a report from Bar Road, Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka states that Hunda, a terrorist belonging to the LTTE, was killed by security forces yesterday.

Jayawardene June Visit to USSR Postponed

BK281133 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1045 GMT 28 May 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — The state visit of Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene to the USSR which had been scheduled for early June this year will not take place in view of the present domestic developments. New dates will be announced by the two governments after consultation, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Colombo today.

Nation Exports More Tea Than India in 1986

BK251155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 87

[Text] Sri Lanka exported more tea last year despite terrorists' threat to poison the commodity and became the world's biggest tea exporter, pushing the traditional leader India to second place. A spokesman for the trade said that being the number one exporter means the country will be able to influence prices. This will not happen overnight, but there are positive advantages of being the leader.

The country exported 207 million kg last year, up from 197 million kg in 1985. India's 1986 exports were about 202 million kg, according to unofficial estimates. However, although Sri Lanka's export volume increased last year, tea earnings dropped to 6,328 million rupees down from 12,000 million rupees in 1985 and 15,800 million rupees in 1984.

Tamil Radio Says Leader Trained by 'Indian Army'

BK251720 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] A few minutes for the friend who attained martyrdom. The armed freedom struggle of Tamil Eelam has been moving toward victory though embracing many losses at various times. These losses are quite common, like confronting death. However, they do not spare even a strong-minded person from moments of pain. For the sake of our beloved country's liberation, we are must bear the pain of deaths and losses. Let us march ahead with the memory of those selfless heroes who embraced death for the sake of our people's liberation and rights. It is another of the great tasks we shoulder in our ideal life. Let us once again swear on the

graves of the selfless heroes who were the life breath of the struggle for the rights of the Tamil-speaking people.

In the cemetery with those those graves that are our adored temples, another historic monument was erected on 20 May with the death of Comrade Radha. He fought until the last for our people's liberation. He gave his life that we might breathe the air of freedom. He was a true revolutionary and challenged death for the sake of the land for which he fought. In Radha's youth he was filled with concern for the revolutionary struggle by the sight of blood being shed daily by the Tamil-speaking race. It can be said that Radha's lust for freedom was stirred on seeing the blood of the Tamil-speaking people of Eelam flowing along the streets of southern Sri Lanka in July 1983. That was what led him to become a member of the LTTE within a few days.

Strong in faith and loyal to Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Tamil-speaking people, Radha obtained training from the Indian Army as one of the highest ranking members of the LTTE. Besides being a good marksman, Radha had the quality of managing military affairs effectively.

After completing military training in India in 1984, Radha was a close associate of Comrade Prabhakaran for many days and earned his friendship and trust. In this way, Comrade Radha was appointed commander of the 5th Special Task Force of the LTTE by Prabhakaran in Purattasi [Tamil calendar month] 1984. Besides giving full support to Radha's appointment, Comrade Ponnamman also encouraged him.

Radha prepared more than 200 commandos of LTTE's special task force for the struggle in Panguni [Tamil calendar month] 1985 and went to the battlefield with Comrade Victor Oscar in Chitrai [Tamil calendar month] 1985. Radha gave great support to Victor, led several landmine attacks, and killed many government troops. He led part of the attack on the Mannar police station and was the most important person in the success in that attack. After that Comrade Radha (?led an attack) on an ancient city of Sri Lanka in May 1985.

Radha, who became very popular after that, worked for the welfare of Mannar District and was appointed the LTTE's Mannar District commander in October 1986 after the death of Comrade Victor Oscar. Lieutenant Colonel Radha, who overcame several challenges that confronted him in the beginning, led his forces steadfastly against several aggressive acts of the Sri Lankan forces. Radha smashed the Pannai minimilitary camp in Jaffna District and the minimilitary camp in Kankesanthurai this year and thus led many successful LTTE attacks.

Fearing that Jaffna District might be again occupied by government forces, and as Comrade Kittu was affected by the attack of the traitors, Radha stayed there and led the attacks, becoming one of the those who embraced death boldly with Comrade Shankar on 20 May and laid down his life in the battlefield. Radha is one of the hundreds of candles that have melted for the liberation of Tamil Eelam. It is certain that the brilliance of those selfless lights further brighten the path of our holy war.

Khomeyni's Office on Food Contributions to Poor

LD281200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 87

[Report on 28 May statement by Imam Khomeyni's office on food contributions to the poor]

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that Imam Khomeyni's office had made the following announcement:

After repeated questions by the office of his holiness the imam, may his lofty shadow increase, regarding food contributions to the poor and their consumption, the imam was requested to comment on this issue. His holiness graciously said: It is better to distribute the food contributions from each district among the poor of the same district.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's Office, 28 May 87

Envoy in Paris Denies Torture of Prisoners

LD221507 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 22 May 87

[Text] Paris, May 22 IRNA — Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Paris Gholam Reza Haddadi categorically denied the Amnesty International (AI) report alleging torture of Iranian prisoners saying "torture on prisoners in Iran is forbidden according to Islamic law."

Speaking in an interview with French television Channel 2 Thursday night, Haddadi rejected the accusation of torture in Iran as reflected in the Amnesty International report describing them as "blatant lies". Haddadi said reporters who have toured prisons in the Islamic Republic of Iran can attest to the falsity of AI's claims. "None of the instances of alleged torture have specific sources and even the hypothetical victims are not identified. Moreover, the illustrated documents are not related to Iran," Haddadi said.

No one in the Islamic Republic of Iran is threatened or detained because of his ideological beliefs, the diplomat said.

The Iranian charge d'affaires added that all in all the AI report was not suprising because the organization had in previous years too defended Iranian terrorists whose hands are dirty with the blood of tens of innocent countrymen and their leaders.

Gholam Reza Haddadi expressed hope that AI would pay more attention to the countries such as South Africa and occupied Palestine where cases of outright torture and brutality against innocent humans is commonplace.

Further Reportage on Visit of Cuba's Malmierca

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD271624 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA — Visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati held their first round of talks here Wednesday. At the meeting the two exchanged views on the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meet in Pyongyang which is to study South-South cooperation.

The two foreign ministers explained their country's stance in relation with the Persian Gulf and Central America.

The Cuban minister said that domestic problems of the U.S. Government, and especially the miscarriage of its schemes against Iran dissuaded it from its adventuresome schemes in Nicaragua.

Malmierca said Cuba believes imperialism is seeking its own interests rather than those of the Persian Gulf peoples, whom he said, it exploits in order to justify its own presence in the region.

In response, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati said that there has been little progress in the South-South cooperation beyond declamatory slogans and declaration of principles in vague resolutions hardly capable of solving economic problems of third world countries.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Velayati said the Baghdad government initially started attacking ships in the Persian Gulf in order to make it insecure and thereby beg the presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf. "The current tension in the Persian Gulf can grow rapidly in light of the consequential status of the region," Velayati stressed, noting that tension is to benefit none. The Iranian minister emphasised that the security in the Persian Gulf is not something which may be assured some states and denied others.

Velayati and Malmierca also agreed that expert groups from the two countries would study outlooks for expanding Tehran-Havana cooperation in the future and present their recommendations to the foreign ministers of Iran and Cuba later on.

The Cuban foreign minister, heading a delegation, arrived here Wednesday morning at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart.

Meets With Agriculture Minister

LD271820 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca met with Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali here Wednesday and discussed with him expansion of Tehran-Havana agricultural cooperation.

Malmierca briefed the Iranian minister on his country's activities in the fields of fishery, cattle breeding and sugar cane cultivation and said that Tehran-Havana cooperation in these fields would be in the interest of the two countries.

In response, Zali described Iran-Cuba relations as "firm and important" at international levels. He also said that in order to attain agriculture self-sufficiency Iran is ready to cooperate with countries experienced in the field. The two also underlined the need to further expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of fishery, cattle breeding and sugar cane cultivation. [passage omitted]

Confers With Health Minister

LD281232 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — Visiting Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca met with Iranian minister of health Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi and discussed expansion of mutual health cooperation and joint production of medicine, here Thursday. Malmierca termed the results of the visit of a Cuban health delegation to Iran earlier this year as "very successful."

Meanwhile, Dr Marandi said that despite problems created by the superpowers, Iran has made considerable achievements in the area of health. He added that more than 81 percent of pharmaceutical products are manufactured domestically under the generic project which is being studied by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a model for other countries. The health minister also reminded that the number of medical students has increased from an annual 700-800 students before the culmination of the '79 Islamic Revolution to over 5,000 students.

At the end of the meeting, Dr Marandi invited his Cuban counterpart to visit Iran. [passage omitted]

IRGC Navy Commander Says Forces at 'Full Readiness'

LD281001 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 28 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA — Brigadier General Sayyad Shirazi conferred with Majlis (Parliament) speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday. During the meeting Shirazi briefed Rafsanjani on his tour of the Persian Gulf region and Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) naval forces Hoseyn Aaie [name as received] met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and announced the full readiness of the IRGC naval forces in all dimensions.

The minister of roads and transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya also met with the Majlis speaker and gave him a report on his ministry's activities.

Kurds Liberate Military Bases; CW Raid Reported

LD271811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Continuing the relentless struggles of the resistant forces of Iraqi Kordestan against the criminal Iraqi regime, the peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kordestan [PUK] yesterday began mopping up the enemy's forces from two axes in the southern regions of Ai-Sulaymaniyah Province. They succeeded in capturing the headquarters of the 879th Special Brigade of the 90th base [as heard], the 60th Brigade's base, and the base of the 97th Iraqi Brigade.

A PUK spokesman said: On this side of (Shejelavaraneh), the (Gelezardeh), (Sagermeh), and (Barraneh heights), and the (Gorg Tappeh) and (Darameh) villages and several bases providing cover and protection to the Iraqi forces, were liberated. Also in these operations, 150 enemy troops were killed and 20 captured, 15 tanks and vehicles belonging to Iraqi troops were destroyed, and 200 different types of arms were taken as booty by the struggling Kurdish forces.

Also, following ambush operations by the PUK forces in Irbil Province, the (Germetaleh), (Dowri Eslamgholi), and (Nazemi) villages in that province were subjected to chemical air raids by the mercenary Iraqi regime's aircraft and helicopters.

Iraqi Helicopter Downed by Kurds

LD271817 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 27, IRNA — An Iraqi helicopter was shot down Iraqi Kurdestan over the past two days, by Iraqi Kurdish militants. [sentence as received] The wreckage of the copter downed during the 'Sheykh Jiri' clash occured in northern Iraq and littered the area of the village of Bash Bulaq.

Baghdad Accused of 'Antihuman Act' Against Kurds

LD271815 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] According to the report of the General Staff Headquarters of the three branches of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, during the past 2 days the forces under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters in a coordinated ambush operation along the Sirvan-Sayyid Sadiq road, succeeded in setting on fire 16 antiriot armored vehicles, a [words indistinct] vehicle and 3 light vehicles. The forces succeeded in destroying the vehicles and killing or wounding their crews. The Kurdish strugglers also captured some light personal weapons.

Quoting Ramadan Headquarters, the report states: Following the mounting uprising of the Muslim and oppressed people of northern Iraq, the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Baghdad, in another antihuman act, added to its crimes by burying alive some 85 inhabitants of the town of Halabjah. The act was carried out by mercenary agents who were assigned to put down the people's demonstrations. Local people discovered the mass grave 25 May near Halabjah.

Communique No 2,849 Details Recent Operations

LD271618 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 27 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but found no suspicious cargo aboard them. They also checked movements of Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway in the northwestern tip of the Persian Gulf yesterday.

Announcing the above here Wednesday, the 2849th Joint Staff communique said that Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions throughout the fronts yesterday, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several munitions dumps and some vehicles of theirs. Parts of enemy positions in each front were also set ablaze.

An Iraqi military unit comprising 30 heavy vehicles and eleven 130-mm artillery pieces came under Iranian artillery fire in Helaleh, northwestern fronts, and suffered heavy losses yesterday.

One Iraqi officer, one NCO and several soldiers were killed in Marivan, northwestern fronts, Tuesday in a clash with Iranian patrols. Another Iraqi patrol convoy was suppressed in Qasr-e Shirin in western fronts.

Iraqi forces fired chemical shells at Iranian positions at Malteh [name as received] around Baneh, northwestern fronts, Monday night. No one was injured in the enemy chemical attack, the communique concluded.

Commentary Points Out Superpowers' 'Vulnerability'

NC270956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 27 May 87

[Commentary from the "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Excerpts] In an article entitled "Tabas Sands in the Persian Gulf," the [Pakistani] English-language daily *Muslim* commented on the recent attack on the *U.S.S. Stark*, stating: The fact that the attacks on the U.S. and Soviet vessels came only 1 week after they officially entered the Persian Gulf not only proves that such a presence endangers their own interests in an unforeseen manner, but also indicates the vulnerability of their defense system.

The main point in this article is the vulnerability of the superpowers, even though the writer only mentioned it in the context of their defense systems. One is forced to agree with the following famous Persian adage: One handful reveals what the entire load contains. This weakness of the superpowers is present in their entire administrative system and will always be so; it exists because they try to take advantage of and inspire fear and dread in the people of the deprived nations under their domination to attain their own objectives. In other words, the superpowers' might depends on the strength of the dominated nations. If the deprived nations one day rose up and challenged the intimidators, the events of Vietnam, Lebanon, Korea, and Iran would once again be repeated. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran's active naval presence in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman is one of the most effective elements blocking the Ba'thist regime's military routes, and Iran is determined not to permit any vessel serving Iraqi interests to cross this waterway, regardless of the flag it flies.

The superpowers realize this more than anyone else, and as the War Information Headquarters official stated, it will be a source of great degradation to the superpowers if an Iranian gunboat aims at their frigates. To tell the truth, if they have one iota of sense, the superpowers will make an honorable exit from the Persian Gulf before the fires of fury begin to rage and while there is hope of their coming out of it alive. [passage omitted]

[Begin Besharati recording] [passage omitted] For 60 years the Soviets declared to the world that they supported all scientific philosophies; that is Marxism and all kinds of liberation movements, but the Islamic revolution proved the utter hollowness of their claim. The United States, which was considered a world superpower, proclaimed that it could do whatever it wanted, but the Islamic revolution proved that U.S. imperialism is vulnerable. This is of immense value. The same United States that had shackled and disgraced the world has now been bent like a piece of cardboard in the able hands of our combatants, and is left feeling humiliated and inept.

What is important is that, by various means, it is now trying to forge links with the Islamic Republic and to mitigate the Republic's animosity and hostility toward it. Although this counts as one of the Islamic Revolution's major feats, we have unfortunately not yet exploited the situation as much as we can. [end recording]

Commentary Discusses 'Popular Uprising' in Iraq

NC240838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 24 May 87

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group entitled: "Northern Iraq and the Escalation of the Popular Uprising"]

[Text] While the Iraqi regime is still trying to control the popular uprising in northern Iraq, reports received from the areas inhabited by Kurds state that the residents of Harir have joined in the massive protests in support of the people of Sayyid Sadiq, Halabjah, Rawanduz, and Khurmal. The widespread rebellion, which began in Iraqi Kurdistan 10 days ago with protests by residents of Sayyid Sadiq and Halabjah, has prompted certain questions: Will the Iraqi Armed Forces be capable of maintaining long-term control over this strategic area? Or is the situation beyond the control of this weakened army?

News sources and military observers are of the opinion that the strength and capability of the Iraqi Armed Forces is far less than is necessary to resist the popular movement of the inhabitants of northern Iraq for any length of time and to establish control over these areas. This is especially true given that the greater part of the Ba'thist Armed Forces is locked in combat with our Islamic fighters on the various sectors of the front. The 10-day resistance of the residents of Sayyid Sadiq and Halabjah and the fact that some other cities in northern Iraq have joined the revolt in these two cities raise the possibility that this uprising in northern Iraq may spread. Furthermore, the attempts of the Ba'thist forces to control northern Iraq have exposed the vulnerability of these forces.

The extensive uprising of the people of northern Iraq occurred in the wake of the inhuman policies followed by the Iraqi regime in this region. The regime recently ordered land and air attacks on northern Iraqi cities and villages as a result of which many defenseless people, including women and children, were killed. In most cases, the Iraqi forces surpassed their own customary brutality by razing the people's homes to the ground with bulldozers after attacking the villages, thus forcing the inhabitants to migrate to other parts of the country, including areas adjacent to Kuwait.

Ever since it came to power, the Ba'thist party has pursued a policy of dispersing the Kurds by means of forced evacuation. For example, in 1971, Mustafa Barzani asked the Iraqi regime to halt the policy of forcible migration in the oil-rich areas of Kurdistan such as Al-Mawsil, Kirkuk, and Khanaqin, and asked for a population census in the area. In October 1972, the KDP attacked the policy of forced migration in a 25-point resolution, and demanded a referendum to decide Kirkuk's future. Northern Iraqi Kurds were coerced into moving to non-Kurdish areas near the Kuwaiti and Jordanian borders in the hope that this dispersal would damage the Kurdish cause. This inhuman policy not only failed to hold back the rapidly growing struggle of the Kurds in this region; it also caused the popular uprising in the deprived areas to spread in an unprecedented manner, thanks to the support of the Islamic combatants. This is confirmed by the recent upsurge of the rebellion in the cities of Khurmal, Sayyid Sadiq, Rawanduz, Harir, and Halabjah.

As a result of the uprising of the people of northern Iraq, Saddam's regime has lost control over much of this strategic area, thus proving the instability of this dictatorial regime. In addition, this rebellion can serve as a model for other Iraqi combatants, which, if emulated, can shake the foundations of the self-sold Saddam regime. Military attacks by the Islamic combatants as part of their extensive infiltration operations have proved a decisive factor in this uprising in Iraqi cities. By destroying a major part of Saddam's war machine, our forces have succeeded in mitigating the pressure brought to bear by Saddam on the deprived people of this area, thus creating favorable conditions for their struggle. In these circumstances, the Islamic Republic declares that it will continue its policy of defending the rights of the Iraqi nation and expressing its support for this popular mutiny by inflicting blows on the Iraqi war machine as a form of assistance to these deprived and oppressed people.